

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 04611 180918Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 FAA-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 /063 W

----- 055456 /10

R 171739Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5357
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 4611

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ML PROP CU US
SUBJECT: CUBAN PROPAGANDA FILM

REF: BAMA KO 4507 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL DIPLOMATIC SOURCES WHO ATTENDED
DECEMBER 14 FILM SHOWING AT CUBAN EMBASSY, FILM WAS
CENTERED ON SPEECH BY CASTRO DENOUNCING CIA FOR CAUSING
EXPLOSION WHICH DOWNED CUBANA AIRLINES PLANE LAST OCTOBER.
FILM RAN ABOUT 30 MUNITES, WAS OF POOR TECHNICAL QUALITY,
AND CONLUDED WITH REMARKS BY BRITISH "EXPERT" WHO
TESTIFIED THAT SABOTAGE HAD CAUSED CRASH. CUBAN
AMBASSADOR CARLOS NEIRA GARCIA GAVE SHORT SPEECH AFTER
FILM FOCUSING ON "PROFF" OF SABOTAGE. HIS SPEECH WAS
DESCRIBED AS SURPRISINGLY MILD IN TONE.

2. ABOUT 30-40 PEOPLE ATTENDED FLIM SHOWING. MALIAN
MINISTER OF EDUCATION MOUSTAPHA SOUMARE AND MFA DIREC-
TOR GENERAL HALIDOU TOURE WERE SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS
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PAGE 02 BAMA KO 04611 180918Z

PRESENT. BOTH LEFT IMMEDIATELY AFTER CUBAN AMBASSA-
DOR'S SPEECH.

3. EMBASSY SENT SIMPLE DECLARATIVE DIPLOMTIC NOTE
TO MFA ON DECEMBER 16 QUOTING SECRETARY'S OCTOBER 15 STATE-
MENT TO PRESS THAT CASTRO'S CHARGES WERE TOTALLY FALSE.

SIMILAR NOTES WERE SENT TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN BAMAKO.

4. OF RELATED INTEREST WAS PRESS COVERAGE DECEMBER 15 IN OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR ON POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN CUBAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HEADLINES ON FRONT PAGE, OVER PICTURES OF CASTRO AND CARTER, SAID "WILL THE ARRIVAL OF MR. CARTER MARK A THAW IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS?" INSIDE ARTICLE QUOTED UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT AND CARTER INNER-CIRCLE SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT CUBA DESIRED AN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES AND THAT RAUL CASTRO'S DECEMBER 4 SPEECH IN HAVANA HAD CLEARLY OFFERED TO HELP THE NEW PRESIDENT RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS HAD BEEN LESS "RIGID" THAN THOSE OF PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. SECOND HALF OF ARTICLE WAS FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF NEW CARTER CABINET APPOINTMENTS.

5. HIGH-RANKING MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OFFICIAL ASSURED DCM AND PAO DECEMBER 15 THAT MALIAN MEDIA WOULD GIVE NO PLAY TO CUBAN FILM. AS OF DECEMBER 17, ASSURANCE HAS PROVEN VALID.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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